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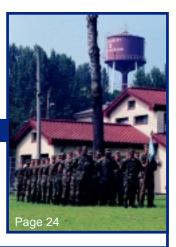
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Cover

Future NCOs, U.S. and KATUSA, stand on the Wightman Noncommissioned Officer Academy's parade field during their PLDC graduation ceremony. Many KATUSA corporals voluntarily attend the U.S. Army's 30-day challenge.

Photo by Sgt. John R. Rozean



Features

Building up faith

Servicemembers have been climbing up a mountain in their off-duty hours to help build a local church. The project is proving to be constructive spiritually as well as mechanically.





As close as it gets

Light and mechanized infantry units combine with engineer support to form a deadly combative force during realistic training in 'Warrior Country.'

Getting the show on the screen

The relationship between watching your favorite television shows and one maintenance team may be more than you think. A crew based out of Yongsan continuously keeps AFKN transmission towers up and running.



Departments

Command Huddle, page 4
News and Notes, page 5-6
Remembering the "Forgotten War," page 8-9
A touch of Korea, page 12-14
Represent USFK, page 17
Final frame, page 30

See KORUS online at http://www.korea.army.mil/pao/korus/korus.htm

Soldiers help put out wildfire flames

National Guard troops, as well as active-duty soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, armed with shovels, yellow hardhats and protective clothing, marched into the scorched hell of western Montana last month battling the nation's worst season of wildfires in more than a decade.

The Fort Hood soldiers had previously been deployed to Idaho, helping federal authorities battle forest fires there.

Although the military's effort to help fight Montana fires was getting the most attention, Air Guard members were deployed in 10 western states where exhausted firefighters and federal and state resources were being stretched to the limit.



(Above) Soldiers from Fort Hood clear a trail along the fire lane on their first day of preparatory training. The U.S. soldiers learned fast, according to Master Sgt. Lewis Matson, the 4th Infantry Division Strike Team Leader.

"It's been all right, but it's pretty treacherous on these mountains."

(Compiled from an Army News Service Press release.)

Osan Air Base opens its doors

Osan Air Base organizers are inviting U.S. Forces Korea members and their families to attend a base-sponsored Oktoberfest in September and an airshow in October.

Both events are free and open to all military identification card holders and their families.

Osan's Oktoberfest 2000 takes place 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sept. 23 in the commissary parking lot. 'Fest' highlights include live performances, a golf tournament and various other games and

activities. For more information, call Roxanne Misterek at 784-6798.

Osan's Open House, which is open to USFK members and the public, takes place 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 7. Planned events include aircraft static displays, military displays, AFKN live remote, food and beverage booths, and performances by the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia.

For more information, call the 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 784-4044.

N. Korea repatriates 12 sets of remains

The remains believed to be those of 12 American soldiers missing since 1950 were returned to the United States on July 22. A joint U.S. – North Korean team found the remains about 60 miles north of the capital of Pyongyang. The area was the scene of fierce fighting between U.S. and Chinese forces in November 1950.

The remains are believed to be those of men who fought with the 1st Cavalry

Division, the 2nd Infantry Division and the 25th Infantry Division. This brings the total to 54 sets of remains repatriated from North Korea since the effort started in 1996, said Larry Greer, a spokesman for the POW/MIA office.

More than 8,100 servicemembers are listed as missing from the Korean War. Most of those were lost in the North.

(Compiled from an Army News Service Press Release.)

'The Dragon' expands

Korea's largest military lodge located on Yongsan's South Post is scheduled to open its new 95-room tower this month. This opening is the final phase of a three-phase expansion that started with the March 1999 addition of a two-story parking garage to the Dragon Hill Lodge, more commonly referred to as "The Dragon."

The expansion also includes a new entrance from Eighth Army Drive, as well as an expanded lobby and additional public restrooms.

The new tower features coinoperated laundry facilities on each floor, a fitness center, and eight large "family" rooms to accommodate larger families during transitions.

More long term plans, not directly connected with the expansion contract, include converting the tennis court to a playground with an overlooking bay window and upgrading the existing guest rooms in the existing tower, as well as continued landscaping and property beautification.

(Compiled from a Seoul Word article)

AAFES addresses defective tire issue

Military customers who suspect tires they bought from an Army and Air Force Exchange Service Autopride service facility are defective need only bring them by for free inspection and replacement if warranted.

"Your local AAFES car care facility will give your tires a detailed inspection and replace them or offer you a prorated refund on new ones as the case may be," said Ray Howard, AAFES' category manager for tires.

"We'll be paying particularly close attention to tires just identified by the NHTSA for evaluation based on reported problems."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has announced it is reviewing the quality and safety of Firestone's ATX, ATXII and Wilderness lines of tires.

Defense officials announce plan to replace food stamps

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2000 — Servicemembers who qualify for food stamps — and some who don't — may soon get debit cards to use in commissaries, DoD officials announced July 28.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen told reporters at the Pentagon that the DoD-issued cards would be credited with a fixed monthly value based on the user's rank and family size.

Cohen called the cards necessary because Agriculture Department food stamp rules create an inequity between servicemembers who live on base and those who live off. Under current food stamp eligibility guidelines, the value of base family housing isn't counted as income, but housing allowances for those who live off base are. All other things being equal, then, families living on base appear to be needier than those living off base.

The debit cards would end the inequity by not counting housing allowances as income, DoD officials said. This probably means more servicemembers would receive cards than currently receive food stamps — but it's fair, they said. The new plan

would be optional for members and cost the department \$31.5 million per year. Members can't participate in both programs.

Cohen also said the proposed debit card program would be more convenient because it would be administered by installations and members wouldn't have to travel to state food stamp offices. The cards would give members up to 30 percent more buying power because of commissaries' lower prices, he suggested.

Officials are adding provisions for cash allowances for remotely located servicemembers who do not have ready access to a commissary.

"We tried also to take into account that our pay scales depend upon rank, responsibility (and) years of service, and we want to keep that basic core of our compensation schedules," said Cohen.

The plan needs congressional approval. Cohen said the idea already has support from members of the House and Senate armed services committees.

Navy Capt. Elliott Bloxom, DoD's director of compensation, said the plan will likely be covered in the fiscal 2002 budget request and take effect Oct. 1, 2001.

Quality of Life



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Jim Finch, got a first-hand look at some of the airmen's dorms at Osan Air Force Base this summer as part of a 13-day visit to Pacific Air Force servicemembers. (Above) He discusses the room accommodations with Staff Sgt. David Hassong, 554th Red Horse Squadron. The Chief talked with Hassong about some of the problems with living conditions and improvements that can be done to make the dorms better.

`Sharkin it' at CRC

Pool sharks have been circling the pool tables at the freshly re-built Camp Red Cloud Community Activity Center that opened in July. (On the right) Army Chief Warrant Officer Lucky Mertes, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment lines up a shot on his way to a third place finish at the Eighth U.S. Army championships held at the community center.

Twenty of the top players on the peninsula gathered at CRC for the 8-ball tournament. (Information provided by Area 1 Public Affairs Office.)



hanging Times

Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz

y theme for this huddle with you is "changing times." We are in a period of time that is benchmarked by unprecedented change. The Korean's booming economy as well as their new hope for lasting peace with the North is drawing the world's attention. There is no doubt about that.

The recent North-South Korean Summit was a historic event and it exceeded everyone's expectations. Increased dialogue is a welcomed sign of improving relations. We hope for the best.

But, uncertainty will exist until there is real change. Therefore, we must remain focused on our mission – and our mission is very simple — To deter war and, if deterrence fails, to fight tonight and win! Our ROK - US alliance deters aggression each day. The greatest aspect of the alliance is that it has deterred war for the past 50 years. Rest assured, this alliance will continue to do

As President Kim, Dae Jung said, "Only when the military is strong can we maintain peace with the North." In fact, he went on to say, "When you really want peace, you must be fully prepared for war."

great things on into the future.

Our ROK-U.S. alliance is fully prepared for war and is the best in the world. The alliance was born out of sweat and blood on the battlefield and our alliance grows stronger each year. Rest assured, we remain fully committed to this great alliance.

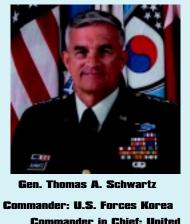
I need to share one more simple observation for the future – Strength, readiness and good training is what

will keep this alliance together in the future. That's why our joint and combined exercises are critical to maintaining our combat capabilities. **Ulchi-Focus-Lens is our capstone** exercise. It is superb training in the air, on the ground, and on the sea. It enables our joint and combined team to hone its warfighting skills. Additionally, our integration of reserve component forces makes our team of teams more powerful. More importantly, training side-by-side with our **ROK** counterparts is the key to our

Nevertheless, I need to remind you that along with changing times, and a growing democracy, comes protest. Recent anti-U.S. demonstrations in Seoul and throughout the peninsula are a cause for concern, but not alarm. Freedom of expression is a

Our ROK - US alliance deters aggression each day. The greatest aspect of the alliance is that it has deterred war for the past fifty years. Rest assured, this alliance will continue to do great things on into the future.

> fundamental right of democratic countries – just like we enjoy in the U.S. But we must never forget that freedom is what the ROK-U.S. military alliance fought and died for a half-century ago. The precious gift of freedom is what holds this great alliance together. Accordingly, and almost regrettably, we can anticipate more demonstrations and we must respect their right to do so.



Commander in Chief: United

Nations Command and ROK/U.S. **Combined Forces Command**

But, as these anti- U.S. demonstrations take place, I must tell you that I will always remain concerned for your safety. Safety and common sense must go handin-hand during these changing times. Fortunately, most demonstrations are peaceful and are known in advance. We will keep U.S. personnel informed of demonstrations through the chain of command and on the Armed Forces Network.

Nonetheless, there is always the potential for violence. Servicemembers and their families need to follow these simple rules:

- -Avoid demonstrations and do not get involved.
- **–Use the buddy system when** going off base.
- -Plan ahead and stay alert. Our relationship with our Korean ally is stronger than ever, but changing times are upon us! We must remain committed to proudly serving with our ROK counter-parts, but at the same time, we must all be careful to do things that are smart and safe.

Let me end by saying, this is a great tour of duty for all of us and I am very proud of each and everyone of you.

Kachi Kapsida! (Let us go forward together!)

Remembering the "Forgotten" War

The A-frame Army...

Background photo by Pfc. Nicole C. Adams
Photo Art by Col. Jung. Dahoon

Republic of Korea Army band members in Korean traditional soldier's clothing pass by during the ceremony.

'Unsung h<mark>eroes</mark> of the Korean War'

Story by Staff Sgt. Theresa McCullough

Veterans of the Korean Service Corps were recognized for their unselfish service during the KSC 50th Anniversary Commemoration ceremony held July 25 and 26 at Yongsan Army Garrison, Seoul. The KSC veterans present were awarded an Eighth U.S. Army Certificate of Appreciation by Maj. Gen. Steven R. Whitcomb, deputy commanding general for Operations, EUSA.

"Veterans said the EUSA Certificate of Appreciation served as a 'formal recognition' of their contributions to the war effort by the EUSA whereas the ROK government" overlooked them, said Kim, Tae Sam, the KSC action officer for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

"Many of (the veterans) wiped tears from their eyes and wept when the EUSA band played the Korean National Anthem, and when Maj. Gen. Whitcomb publicly called them 'unsung heroes of the Korean War," Kim said. One hundred two Korean War KSC veterans attended the July 26 honors ceremony and approximately 200 spectators observed. The evening before the ceremony, 62 KSC veterans were honored with a formal dinner at the Dragon Hill Lodge.

The creation of the KSC is traced back to a July 26, 1950 Presidential Emergency Decree No. 6 signed by South Korean President Rhee, Syngman. This decree changed thousands of Korean men's lives and proved to be one of the significant events of the Korean War.

The decree allowed for the legal commandeering of all the national assets indispensable to fighting a war. These items ranged from foodstuffs, water, and transportation equipment to manpower resources essential to military operations.

Manpower proved to be the most critical resource needed, thus the basis for the KSC's predecessor, the Civilian Transportation Corps; men conscripted to assist in the effort of supplying troops, repairing roads and buildings defensive structures. One year later and under the guidance of the Eighth Army commanding general, Gen. James A. Van Fleet, the

CTC evolved into the KSC. This is an organization that today continues to work side by side with U.S. forces in the defense and continuance of peace on the Korean peninsula.

The first Korean laborers helped unload equipment for units in the 24th Infantry Division on the docks of Pusan port in July 1950. From these undisciplined beginnings, the CTC emerged and later evolved into the KSC.

Although it is not used these days, the KSC retains its vivid symbol, the A-frame, a wooden rack used during the war to carry ammunition and supplies to troops. The frame represents the sheer strength of KSC workers, who shouldered 100-pound loads while climbing Korea's mountainous terrain to keep troops supplied. They became known as the A-frame army, closely supporting combat troops in hostile areas.

Of the 300,000 workers conscripted from 1950 to 1953, 2,064 were killed in action, 2,448 were missing in action and 4,282 were wounded in action. A monument dedicated to these men's heroic efforts and sacrifices is located at the KSC headquarters, Camp Kim, Seoul.

The KSC's support role continues today and is tailored to support a war mobilization effort if hostilities should erupt again. "You can look at the noncombatant KSC in terms of a combat multiplier," said Lt. Col. Mark J. Cain, the current KSC battalion commander. "Should a conflict arise, you have 23,000 people that provide combat support and combat service support to U.S. Forces Korea and EUSA.

The wartime mission of the KSC is to transport ammunition and supplies, evacuate sick and wounded, construct field fortifications, repair and maintain tactical roads and bridges, operate supply



Korean laborers carry ammunition and supplies to batlefield.

points and perform other functions as required in support of USFK and EUSA. "The degrees of training and enthusiasm, in terms of frequency and rigors, is no less than armed soldiers," Kim added. "I dare say, our KSC members are comparable to American soldiers for competence of skill and enthusiasm."

During armistice, the KSC exists to facilitate the



(From left to right) Yi, Yong Kap, KSC union president, Lt Col. Mark J. Cain, Maj. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb and Yi, Yong Ha, a KSC Korean War veteran, cut an anniversary cake with a ceremonial saber at the event.

mission of U.S. units in the defense of the Republic of Korea in accordance with the U.S./ROK agreement regarding the status of the KSC — a Status of Forces Agreement related document. The armistice mission of the KSC is to: support engineer projects, assist in the operation of U.S. logistics installations, assist in the performance of accountability and surveillance functions of ammunitions and explosives, ambulance operation and nursing assistance, firing range operations, heating equipment operation and maintenance, military bus operations, decontamination support, support of base operations functions and assume contract defaults and other projects as directed by the commanding general, EUSA.

To become a member of the KSC, an individual must complete their military obligation, complete an application, and have a driver's license among other qualifications. Currently, there are 16 women who work for the KSC, though in administrative positions.

"We're clearly not the A-frame Army," Cain said.
"This is an organization that is evolving and growing."

Kim added, "The KSC is a hidden weapon for the EUSA. In the event of hostilities, no doubt our KSC would support American fighting units like our predecessors did during the Korean War."





Perched on a rural mountainside in northern South Korea, this chapel has inspired growth, peace and friendship among the U.S. military volunteers who've committed themselves to completing its construction.

Story and photos by Pfc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

A group of 20 soldiers, airmen and clergymen spent a recent Saturday morning carrying hundreds of pounds worth of equipment and food up a crude, treacherous trail on a mountain in northern South Korea.

The mountainside, rife with vegetation and all the glory of a hot, humid summer, had unfortunately proved too much for the group's four-by-four truck. Their commitment, though, remained undaunted as they overcame the sun and delivered the goods to the church they are slowly but surely building.

"What a bunch of crazy guys!" observed Paul Zawadski as he saw the ant-line of coolers, drills, and generators coming his way.

Father Paul, a Pallotine monk, is the man leading the construction, which began almost seven years ago. He spent the first six of those years single-handedly building the three-floor structure.

Want to help?

Contact Airman 1st Class Thomas M. Puckett at 783-2607 or Chief Warrant Officer Five Andrew B. Meyer at 753-8850

He has since been receiving assistance from the Osan Air Base Chapel and a group of soldiers from Camp Humphreys, Pyongtaek.

"This is a good example of 'for God and country," said Army Chief Warrant Officer Five Andrew B. Meyer, the officer in charge of the 194th Theatre Aviation Maintenance Office, located at Camp Humphreys near Pyongtaek.

With an average of 12 to 15 military volunteers, the church has made notable strides over the past few months.

"I didn't need to know much in order to work hard and make significant progress," said Air Force 1st Lt. Leon H. Travis, an A-10 fighter pilot with the 25th Fighter Squadron.

"That's the beauty of this mission," he continued. "You just show up, be ready to work, get a filling lunch and enjoy some wonderful views. If you know how to drill, then you drill. If you want to cook, then you cook.

Everyone has something to contribute."

And contribute they do. From supplying him with heavy equipment to laughing at his jokes, Father Paul said the volunteers have been an invaluable and wonderful addition.

"They work hard, and they make good sandwiches," he said. "We also now have steel beams in place to support the roof."

"All the C-beams have been cut and laid in place, and most have been drilled and bolted or welded into place," said Air Force Maj. David A. Vogel, chief of Manpower and Organization for the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan. He has been involved with the project for two months.

"While the roof construction crew kept busy," he continued, "another group organized and cleaned the 2nd floor, building shelves and arranging all the loose tools and equipment in the storage room. And a third team worked down below clearing weeds and brush to make the area safer and more presentable."





Chief Warrant Officer 5 Andrew B. Meyer uses an arc welder to fuse a C-beam to the chapel's superstructure.

Still, there is much more to be done. The 3rd floor needs walls and a roof. The church needs a walkway and an entrance for its eventual members.

"If we get enough help, maybe (we'll be finished) in a month," said Father Paul with a smile. "If not, maybe in six years."

Completing the church, though, is not as pressing or vital to him as is constructing a bond between the volunteers.

"If we don't get it done today, we'll get it done tomorrow. That isn't so important," he said. "What is important is what happens inside while you work with others, while the car breaks down. It's the connection between people that excites me."

Travis, for instance, has gained a connection with Airman 1st Class Thomas M. Puckett, an A-10 crew chief with the 25th Fighter Squadron, he called "elemental to outstanding squadron cohesiveness."

The hot summer sun beats down on Father Paul's back as he constructs scaffolding.

He said, "Tom is the type of guy I want to launch my aircraft. I trust him without equivocation. Tom is the caliber of person *my wife* wants working on the jets I fly. Working with him at Father Paul's (church) reinforces that bond of trust."

It's that kind of connection between people that has brought the church-building effort this far.

"It's amazing," said Father Paul.
"Whatever help we've received –
labor, money, materials – has been
from visitors passing by. Someone
would just say, 'Here, I have two tons
of concrete. Would you like them?"

The reasons most people first involved themselves varied, though most were rather innocent.

"I initially participated just because someone asked me to," said Vogel. "I knew it was a worthwhile thing to do, though, so I wanted to help."

"I first heard about it at church," said Army Capt. Nicole S. Lashbrook, a collection manager with Company B, 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion. "Then Andy (Meyer) called me up Friday telling me to come, so here I am on Saturday."

Volunteers Jackie Gibbs and Alissa McDonnell from Osan prepare to enjoy the lunch that rewards their

hard work while rejuvenating them for more.



But once they began, it was hard to stop.

"Now that I've started, there are a lot of reasons to keep on," said Vogel. "For one, it's just fun to be a part of the team and share the sense of accomplishment. Another is that I expect to learn a good bit about construction techniques: welding, drilling, bricklaying and concrete from working with more experienced people like Andy and Tom. Most importantly, working and talking with Father Paul is spiritually uplifting in itself."

"Through this experience," said Meyer, "we as individuals grow spiritually stronger and closer to God. As a community of volunteers working together, we see and experience God's love and gift of faith while finding new meaning to life and what He has to offer."

"I enjoy the hard work and the satisfaction in building something that will be a nearly permanent fixture where people can find peace," said Travis.

Travis has been a part of the project for slightly over a month, and he said he plans to "continue to contribute along with the others."

The list of "others" will soon

hopefully include residents of the nearby village of Yong Doc Won. Some villagers have already begun taking advantage of the not-yet-completed church as a place of worship.

"It takes 20, 40, maybe 50 years to get the church situated," said Father Paul. "It takes that much time to build a trusting and genuine relationship with the people it will serve."

Father Paul and his contingent of volunteers have already reaped the benefits of serving. So much so that the obstacles they overcame on a recent trip only served to inspire them and reaffirm their commitment to their cause.

"That trip to Father Paul's

chapel was even more of an adventure than usual," said Vogel.

He said they were faced with Father Paul's "bongo" truck breaking down, forcing them to carry the equipment up and down the mountain; a few minor jolts experienced by two volunteers while working with an arc welder; bumper-tobumper traffic; and a flat tire on the way home.

But all's well that ends well.

"We were amazed at how well we constructively dealt with the obstacles that God placed in our path," said Meyer. "We found strength in each other."

"It was a weary but cheerful and satisfied crew that rolled back into Osan and Camp Humphreys that Saturday night," said Vogel.



Giving Black Marketing...

The boot

By Air Force 1st Lt. Angie Chang

Digging into your purse or wallet at the installation exchange or commissary to locate your military identification or ration card may seem like an inconvenience. But these rules were not established just to test your temper, nor were they created simply to be violated.

The ration control system exists to monitor purchasing activity by authorized patrons of Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Defense Commissary Agency facilities. "Black marketing" is the business of selling or buying goods in a manner that violates rationing or price control restrictions.

The purpose of the ration control system in Korea is twofold. Its primary purpose is to ensure that authorized AAFES and DECA patrons can get what they need from their local commissary and installation exchange when they need to.

"These items are for servicemembers' and their family members' benefit," said Staff Sgt. Peter Wynne, 51st Security Forces Squadron investigation office.

"When people are buying the goods and selling them at double and triple the price off base, our people are not getting what they need," he said.

The second reason for the ration control system is to prevent black marketing of commissary and base and post exchange items on the Korean economy. The Republic of Korea allows the U.S. military to import food and consumer items into Korea without paying import taxes.

These items are imported for the personal use of military members, as

well as Department of Defense and contract employees and family members.

Sale or other transfer of tax-free items to Korean citizens who aren't U.S. Forces Korea family members is black marketing, even if there is no profit made in the transaction. However, there are exceptions to this rule for certain bona fide gifts, according to Wynne.

Employees are trained to look for suspicious activities.

"For example," said Wynne, "it's not uncommon to have two VCRs in the house, but to buy two in one day is. This is the type of activity we look for."

Units or people who plan to purchase more than the normal monthly limit are required to write a memorandum to the unit or organiza-

People who suspect black marketing can call the:

Black Marketing Hotline 724-4293

tion commander requesting an exception to the policy. A sample of the letter is in USFK Regulation 60-1, section 4-5. USFK Reg. 60-1 explains the ration control process and limits.

"For example, if your (unit) wants to have a barbecue, and you know you're planning to buy goods that exceed your personal needs or purchasing limits, then you need to write a letter requesting to purchase over the limit," Wynne said.

While the investigation offices, installation and commissary employees keep a close watch on purchasing activity, Wynne said it's important for everyone to be aware and report any unusual purchasing activity.

"People can remain anonymous when they call in to report suspicious activity," Wynne said. "We're not going to take names — just letting us know the description of the purchaser and the number of the person's license plate will do."

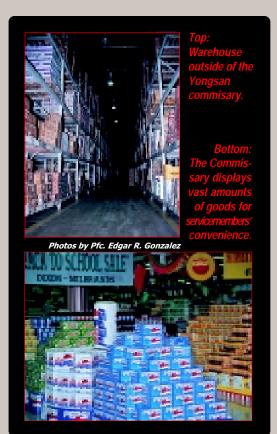
People who choose to ignore the rules will face the consequences.

If someone is directly connected with black-marketing activity, purchases in excess of personal needs or wrongly transfers duty-free goods, the installation commander may indefinitely revoke or suspend the individual's base access and privileges.

"A (family member's) actions on base is the service member's responsibility, Wynne stressed. "(They) can lose their ration cards, and a report on the incident is forwarded to the military member's commander."

In Osan alone, nearly 30 black marketing cases have been investigated this year, according to Wynne.

(1st Lt. Angie Chang is with the 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, Osan Air Base.)



Every month the KORUS staff travels throughout the peninsula searching for stories to spark our readers' interest. Inevitably, many individuals who are vital to the U.S. Forces Korea mission will be left out of our coverage, but occasionally a few will be given the chance to...

Represent USFK

Composed by Cpl. Jung, Dahoon

taff Sgt. Richard W. Commander, small group leader with first platoon at the Wightmen Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Camp Jackson, located about twenty minutes south of Camp Red Cloud in Uijongbu, has been in Korea for one month.

Hometown: Old Saber, Conn.

What do you like most about Korea? "I like getting involved with Korean cultures, and going out and seeing local people. I like Korean food. Unlike other U.S. soldiers, I tried squid. I enjoy eating Korean traditional spicy soups."

What is your job within the unit and what do you like about it? "I am a small group instructor. I feel proud training NCOs."

What is your unit's mission? "Developing young soldiers to become leaders."

Who is the person you respect most in your unit? "The person I respect the most in my unit is Staff Sgt.



Commander

Scott. I respect him the most because he was the first to show me what to do as a small group leader."

How long have you been working for/with the military and where have you served? "I've been in the army for 15 and one-half years. I've been stationed in Fort Lewis, Fort Campbell, Fort Bragg, Germany."

What is your dream duty station? "Fort Campbell. I've already served there for three and one-half years. I really liked it there, and

my wife lives in that area."

What is the most interesting thing you have seen or done while in Korea? "I haven't gone out of the Academy a lot. Riding on the train from Tobongsan to Seoul is the most interesting thing I've done."

Your parting shot: "I am looking forward to spending one more year in Korea. I want to know and see more things about Korea, especially historical sites."

Real world scenarios, combined with the noise of mortar and Paladin fire, made the training at KTC...

AS REAL AS IT GETS

Story by Pfc. Jimmy Norris Photos by Yu, Hu Son

It all began for a team of 2nd Infantry Division "Warriors" when soldiers from the 2nd Engineer Battalion breached a wire and picket obstacle with a simulated mineclearing line charge — 1,800 pounds of C-4 explosive launched about 160 meters by a rocket — which cleared a 10-meter-wide path.

Next, four M1A1 Abrams Tanks from the 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armor.

followed the engineers through the path, proceeding ever so cautiously — always ready to engage targets within the 4,000-meter range of their lethal 120mm cannons.

Targets beyond the range of the tanks' cannons were dealt with by the 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery's mortars and Paladins — self-propelled, armor-plated vehicles carrying

155mm, indirect-fire weapons capable of neutralizing targets up to 28 kilometers away. The soldiers of "2nd Tank" were also covered at close ranges. They had little need to worry about resistance from the opposing force's infantrymen, because snipers from the unit's scout platoon had



already cleared the left and right flanks.

This scenario was orchestrated as part of a combined live-fire exercise which took place this summer at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex located at the Korean Training Center—a combat training area positioned in a rural area about 10 kilometers north of Camp Casey, Tongduchon. Participating units engaged a total of 60 targets—12 targets simulating personnel and 48 targets simulating tanks and armored personnel carriers.

During the exercise three platoons a day qualified on the range.

"This is very effective training. It gives the platoon leader time to practice everything he's been taught," said Staff Sgt. Derek Cox, the range noncommissioned officer in charge.

"It's a platoon leader's chance to exercise command and control," he said. "This is good training because it's one of the few times you get to train as a platoon."

As an exercise designed to simulate a wartime situation, it was impossible

for the exercise to be completed without the thunder of fire support exploding in the distance. The support came first in the form of 120mm mortars and later from the Paladins, which fired three volleys of three rounds — creating what the 1-15th Field Artillery "Red Legs" referred to as "a nine-round fire for effect."

While the artillery battalion's mission during the exercise was to supplement the efforts of the 2nd Tank,





Top photo: Infantrymen played an important role in the exercise by providing protection from enemy foot soldiers. Pfc. James Hulke (left) and Pfc. Lance Blind, Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 72nd

Armor, scan their lanes. Bottom: Artillery units ensure longrange protection by bombarding the enemy with mortar and Paladin fire. Sgt. Frank Rivera, 1st Bn., 15th Field Artillery, keeps track of Paladin fire from inside an armored vehicle.

the 1-15th artillerymen benefited from the training also.

"You can't get this kind of training in the rear. You have to be in the field to use this equipment," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Edwards, 1-15th FA, as he verified the impact of mortar fire with a laser.

Edwards was training on a Ground Vehicular Laser Locator Designator, which is used by forward observers to direct artillery fire.

"In the rear, you're on details all the time. Here you get to perform and rehearse your actual job," said 1-15th FA fire direction specialist, Staff Sgt. Calvin Greene.

"Any training that enhances your ability to fight effectively in combat is good training," said 1st Lt. James Dayhoff, a platoon leader with 1-15th FA.

One of the biggest differences between a training scenario and a wartime scenario, according to Dayhoff, is the fact that the Paladins are restricted to limited firing points in training, which reduces the cannon's maneuverability and versatility.

"We don't get to do a lot of movement training," so the scenario was invaluable to mission readiness, he said.

Perhaps readiness is what makes it all worth while, or perhaps it's just another chance for soldiers to do what



soldiers like to do. In spite of all the negatives of being in the field — the heat, the bugs and the mud — the soldiers seemed to appreciate the chance to get their hands dirty.

"It's a change," said Greene. "You get to come out here and do different things. It's nothing like being at home every night and taking a shower, but you get used to it."

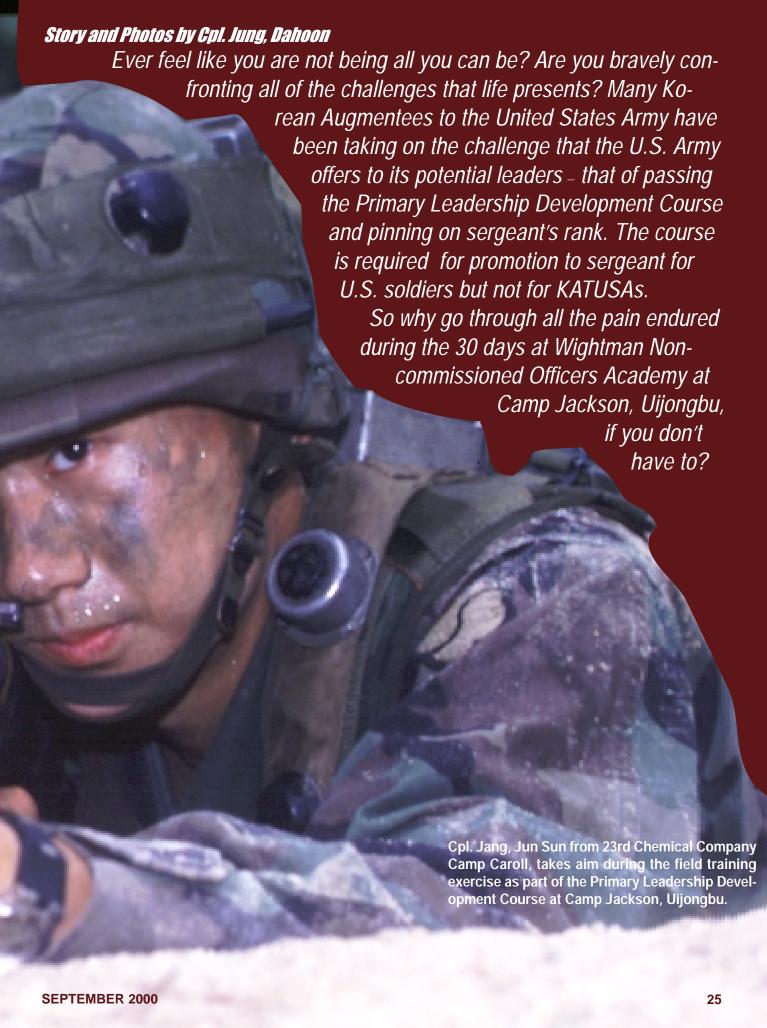
Even though the training may have seemed real to the soldiers who participated, the fact remains that "nothing accurately simulates war, but this gets you as close as possible to the real thing," said Dayhoff.

(Pfc. Jimmy Norris is with the Area 1 Public Affairs Office.)

SHOOTING for SERGEANT

KATUSAs take a shot at the U.S. Army's

Primary Leadership Development Course



PLDC: an NCO's rite of passage

The Primary Leadership Development Course is a rigorous 4-week, 2-day course held every month at Camp Jackson. Each cycle has 180 to 200 students, and about 20 percent of them are Korean Augmentees to the United States Army.

During the first week of training, soldiers go through classroom instruction on the subjects of Leadership, Counseling Safety, Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services, and performing inspections.

In the second week, they study leadership, counseling and Basic Rifle Marksmanship.

The next week, which many students consider the most difficult part of all, the potential leaders learn Map Reading and Land Navigation. About 15 percent of the soldiers fail this part of the course, according to the chief instructor Sgt. 1st Class Marquis Martin.

In the final week, training is focused on the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System and a field training exercise. After going through all courses, only those who have passed every subject are awarded the PLDC diploma.

ilitary service is

required for all of





course as an opportunity to challenge and set myself back in tight order," Wi said. Evidently, Wi got things in order at the academy because he scored the third highest total score in his PLDC class, which earned him the coveted 'Gold Tiger' Badge – a badge given to the first place winner among the KATUSA students.

KATUSA participants are

PLDC graduation is the emotional conclusion to the 30-day course.

Top photo: KATUSAs and soldiers render honors to both the Korean National flag and the American flag.

Bottom photo: Top KATUSA, Cpl. Wi, Jin from 61st Chemical Company, receives the Gold Tiger Badge.

recommended by their unit commanders, but they volunteer for PLDC. They make up about 20 percent of the 190 students per cycle, and they don't have to graduate, or even be there in the first place, to pin on sergeant stripes.

"It is true that we KATUSAs get promoted automatically to sergeant without taking PLDC. But at the same time, we don't want other U.S. soldiers to leave us out for that reason. I understand some may wonder why we take this difficult course for nothing. It is because we want to prove to our fellow U.S. soldiers that we are also able to accomplish what they can," explained Cpl. Shin, Yun Cheol of Company A, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, Camp Stanely.

These self-motivated KATUSAs in PLDC represent all the other KATUSAs serving throughout the peninsula, and their pride and will as Republic of Korea soldiers does not allow them to complain about the course's difficulty, nor does it allow them to give up, despite what others may sometimes think.

"U.S. soldiers might think that

"I wanted to put myself to the test. It's just as simple as that."

Cpl. Wi, Jin, 61st Chemical Company Camp Hialeah

Korea's male citizens. "Most of the KATUSAs just manage to 'survive' their term of service," said one KATUSA who stretched his military potential beyond mere survival. Cpl. Wi, Jin with the 61st Chemical Company, Camp Hialeah, continues, "But I personally think it is wiser to make the most of given circumstances.

"I think young men and women should always urge themselves to further their efforts, and that is why I came here. I wanted to take this

Enter to Learn; Leave to Lead

The Wightman Noncommissioned Officers Academy motto

we're not taking all this as serious as they do because we don't have to be here."

"I understand how they feel about us, but sometimes they don't seem to understand our sheer will to complete the course," said Jang, Jun Sun from 23rd Chemical Company, Camp Caroll.

One instructor has been impressed by many KATUSAs' strong will and determination.

"I think KATUSAs are great soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Marquis Martin, chief instructor of the Eighth U.S. Army NCO Academy.

"I'm impressed when they get excellent scores on tests showing how they can jump over the language barrier. I know that KATUSAs are sometimes quiet, and that you can't really tell what they are thinking, but I think that's because of the language problem."

Martin encourages better relations between U.S. & KATUSA soldiers.

"I always tell my soldiers not to misunderstand them," Martin said.

The course provides that opportunity for U.S. soldiers to establish better relationships with KATUSAs.

Likewise, "KATUSAs should try to understand more about the U.S. soldiers," Wi said. "Working together at PLDC provides a great opportunity for that."

The Army's introductory leadership course offers skills useful to KATUSAs in the military as well as in the civilian world.

"After we finish our military service, we may be asked to be in a leadership position some day. In that sense, PLDC can provide us with a great opportunity to train ourselves. I learned much more than I expected. I learned how to play the leader's role, what the requirements of a leader are,

and what is needed to fulfill those requirements," Wi said. "It's been great to be here."

For KATUSAs who just like to push it to the limit, PLDC provides a challenge that breaks up the monotony of day-to-day Army life.

"I wanted to put myself to the test. It's just as simple as that," Wi said.

But the true test for both KATUSAs and U.S. soldiers who conquer the leadership course will be when their Battle Dress Uniforms finally bear the precious fruit of sergeant stripes. The question will be if the values that the rank represents are simply pinned on their uniforms or are highly shined and imbedded deep within their hearts.



Sgt. William R. Jerry, HHC, 2nd Infantry Division Support Command, avoids detection from sniper fire while checking on his squad during the field training exercise.



One KATUSA soldier marks the point on the Land Navigation answer sheet during the 'Land Nav' test in the third week of the PLDC course. Soldiers consider this part of PLDC the most challenging – 15 percent are dropped from PLDC after failing this course.

You watch your television endlessly with no regard to the effort put into the technical aspects required to get a signal to your barracks. Though you may not consider the means to an end, one highly trained team is busy...



A variable resistor is tweaked to correct different parts of a video signal that will be sent to a television transmitter.

Getting the show on the screen

Story and photos by Pfc. Nicole C. Adams



his Fall during the World Series, many Armed Forces Korean Network viewers' eyes will be on two teams, but one team that is crucial to bringing the game into our living quarters won't be seen on the television screen.

This team of unseen heroes is responsible for keeping AFKN television systems up and running, ensuring successful reception by its many viewers.

Composed of 17 soldiers, eight Korean Nationals, and one Department of the Army civilian who are always on call, these diehard maintenance personnel respond to trouble calls and keep the network on the air from more than 43 microwave/ antenna sites.

Known as the MST, the Maintenance Support Team is part of the 41st Signal Battalion located and based out of Yongsan. They maintain sites from Camp Humphreys to the Demilitarized Zone.

In addition to keeping television continually available, the MST provides support maintenance on all fixed digital and analog telecommunication systems, microwave transmitters and receivers that provide vital communication links between Army posts.

"At a moments notice I, as well as the rest of the team, jump on a chance to go figure out what is wrong with a site and fix it," said AFKN/microwave technician Pfc. Keith R. Dames.

The standard procedure for repairing a site begins with a soldier and a Korean technician responding immediately. From there, the average



Electronic technician Kin, Song Ki, checks different angles on a Namsan tower looking for paint damage and broken light bulbs.

mission is completed within two hours, though some missions have kept the crew working for two days straight, said Chang, Sok Ho, head electronic technician.

Despite the team's eagerness to work during off duty hours, preventive maintenance on the equipment – replacing light bulbs on the towers, inspecting the ground work, and painting when necessary – is performed monthly to avoid serious malfunctions and unnecessary emergency journeys.

When the mission is complete and the crew is on top of a mountain Chang said he feels like he is on a high.

"Everybody cheers and we feel like we can fly in the sky."

Before one can soar, he must learn the basic mechanics, though complex or compound may be more appropriate in describing the amount of information necessary for qualification.

"The job requires the ability to comprehend vast amounts of technical knowledge in short periods of time and learn the operation of the equipment rapidly," said Sgt. Jeremy D. Stieler, MST noncommissioned officer in charge.

One microwave systems operator believes that the leaders are key to the team's success. "We have good leaders, and good leaders make good soldiers work and not-so-good soldiers want to work," Pfc. Elliott N. Thweatt said.

Military NCOs and leaders are not

the only crewmembers contributing to the teams success. Koreans working with the MST have been here for many years and have a vast knowledge of the equipment and site locations, Dames said. Soldiers recognize this and are eager to learn from them.

"As a leader in the shop, I can tell you that I identified early on in my tour that the Korean National employees were the lifeblood that keeps this place running year in and year out. I took a lot of advice from them," Stieler said.

Being part of the MST team is rewarding as well.

Dames said the variety of experience he is gaining here is not only motivating but also mechanically stimulating. "I got to help install one of the new gadgets that makes the whole system more reliable. I was excited to get the hands on experience because it is one of those things that is new enough it hasn't made it into the (Advanced Individual Training) lesson plans yet."

For Stieler, it is shaping soldiers that gives him the warm fuzzy. "Two of the soldiers who have worked for me here are now wearing sergeant stripes and leading their new troops to high standards. Just being able to watch these soldiers progress over the course of the past year has made this a great job in and of itself."

But the true success lies in working together.

"Everyone has to be a team player and have a drive to learn new electronic equipment and systems," said Tommie L. Clark, MST officer in charge. "Teamwork is essential for our success."

So while there will only be one victor named at the conclusion of this year's World Series, multiple teams will deserve applause and recognition. The MST will stand, content, in the rear.



Pfc. Keith R. Dames adjusts the black levels on a television transmitter.

FINAL FRAME City traffic zooms under an overpass in Seoul's Hae-Bang-Chon area with the city's famous tower in the background. Photo by Sgt. John R. Rozean If you have a vertically oriented slide or photo you think is attractive and would appeal to the KORUS audience, please send it to: UNC/CFC/USFK PAO, Attn. KORUS Unit #15237, APO AP 96205-0010